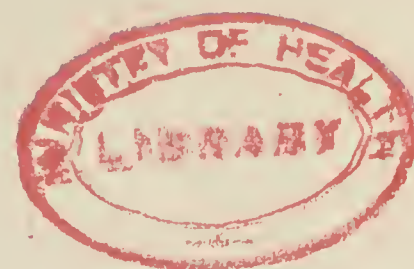


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ROSS-ON-WYF URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1940.



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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:

A.A. EDWARDS (Resigned 25.5.40.).

O.N. LITTLE (Appointed 27.5.40.).

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,  
Ross-on-Wye.

Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and Housing Designated  
Officer:

R. SHAW BATCHFORD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Holds Sanitary Inspectors Certificate and  
Certificate of R.S.I. for Meat and other  
Foods.

Telephone - Ross 62.

Council Chambers,  
Broad Street,  
Ross-on-Wye.

-XX-XX-

To the Chairman and Members of the Ross-on-Wye Urban District  
Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

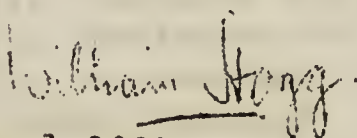
I have the honour to submit my Annual Report  
for the year 1940, which like that for the previous year is  
an interim report.

Notwithstanding the difficulties of the times  
the Health of the District has been remarkably good and this  
can at least in part, be attributed to the policy of the Council  
during the past few years.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude  
to the Council for the support which has always been given to me  
in the discharge of my duties. I also have to acknowledge much  
assistance given to me by Mr. R. Shaw Batchford, Sanitary  
Inspector to the Council, Mr. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council and  
Mr. C.H. Caddick, Surveyor to the Council, not only in the  
preparation of this Report but throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

  
Medical Officer of Health.

August 26th. 1941.



### SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres): 1,004.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books: 1,321

Rateable Value: ... .. £31,320

Sum represented by a penny rate: ... .. £130. 10. 0d.

Extract from vital statistics of the year:

Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid-1940: 5,262.

Live Births	For I.M. etc.			For B.rate.		
	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	83	39	44	76	37	39
Illegitimate	7	2	5	7	2	5

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population: 15.8

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Stillbirths	1	-	1

Rate per 1,000(live and still)births 10.9

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	92	52	40

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 17.5

Adjusted Death Rate (Comparability Factor: 0.83) ..... 14.6

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List.):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
No. 29.-- Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30.-- Other Puerperal Causes	Nil.	Nil.
Total ... ..	Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births:	67
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births:	72
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births:	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	9
" " Measles(all ages) .....	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	Nil

### SECTION B.- GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities:

These remain unchanged. The following specimens were examined during the year by the County and City Public Health Laboratory:-

Swabs .....	70
Sputa .....	22
Faeces .....	3
Urine .....	3
Cerebro-spinal Fluid .....	1
Hairs for Ringworm .....	2
Milk for organisms .....	12
Water: Chemical .....	5
Bacteriological .....	11



## HOSPITALS:

Camp Meadow Hospital situated in the Urban District and formerly utilized by the County Council as a hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis was re-opened by that authority after certain works had been carried out, as a hospital for medical treatment of unaccompanied children under the Government Evacuation Scheme. This accommodation made a useful contribution to the success of the scheme.

## SECTION C: SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER:

During the year two samples of water were taken from the supply of the Ross Water Undertaking and examined at the County and City Laboratory by chemical methods, both samples were found to be highly satisfactory for potable purposes. Six samples of the Ross Water Undertaking drinking water were sent for bacteriological examination and found to be very satisfactory. There are still a few wells in the town and samples from five of these were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these five samples only one (a public well) was of such a quality that the water could be used for potable purposes with safety, whilst two of the remaining four are disused wells.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:

Five new drains have been constructed, one being in connection with the building of a new dwelling, the remainder being new drains to existing premises. All drains were examined and tested by the Sanitary Inspector.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS:

Five animal carcasses were removed from the River Wye and buried on the instruction of the Council.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING:

The Council undertakes a weekly collection of household refuse throughout the District. This work increased during the year on account of the growth of the population. The town tip was maintained in a highly satisfactory state throughout the year.

Street cleansing continued and the use of the street orderly trucks enabled the streets to be maintained in a far more cleanly condition than was possible before these vehicles were adopted.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to Mr. R. Shaw Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council for the following statement-furnished under Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations

Inspections :-

Bakehouses .....	12
Common Lodging Houses .....	24
Cowsheds .....	20
Factories with mechanical power.....	17
Factories without mechanical power.....	24
Infectious Disease .....	210
Markets .....	50
Slaughterhouses .....	120
Billet Inspections .....	1,002
Premises where food is prepared .....	28
Miscellaneous - under Public Health Act .....	200

Total	<u>1,707</u>
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#### Notices Issued:-

Informal	...	...	...	41
Statutory	...	...	...	7
Total				<u>48</u>

#### Defects Remedied:-

New Drains provided	...	...	...	5
New W.C.s provided	...	...	...	5
Stopped Drains cleared	...	...	...	8
Defective Drains cleared	...	...	...	2
Defective Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	11
Defective Roofs repaired	...	...	...	4
Defective Eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	4
Dampness eradicated	...	...	...	8
Defective Water Closets repaired	...	...	...	2
Water systems repaired	...	...	...	1

In spite of a considerable increase in his duties in connection with Civil Defence, Mr. R. Shaw Batchford has continued to exercise an efficient control of the sanitary circumstances of the area throughout the year.

#### Common Lodging Houses:-

The number of these in the town remained at three and in one instance a change in keeper was approved. All premises have been regularly inspected throughout the year.

#### Factories and Workshops:-

Complaint arose as a result of fumes and oil being emitted from the exhaust of a crude oil engine used as a source of power at a factory. As this did not at first appear to admit of a remedy H.M. Inspector of Factories was consulted but could offer little assistance. The occupier of the factory was advised that the oil being emitted was probably lubricating oil getting past the pistons and that an examination of the engine should be undertaken. This work was carried out and the engine completely overhauled, the nuisance has not recurred.

#### Shops and Offices:-

Informal Action was taken under the Shops Acts, 1934, with respect to lack of heating arrangements at one shop.

#### Camping Sites:-

Number of camping sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1940 ... .. 2

Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of Public Health Act 1936 1

Estimated maximum campers resident in the area at one time during summer season 1940 ... .. 100

#### Bed Bugs:-

One house owned by the Council, was found to be infested with bed bugs.

#### School Closures:-

There were no school closures on account of health reasons during the year.

#### SECTION D. HOUSING:-

Little progress was made in housing matters during the year owing to the difficulties of the times. No new houses were erected within the District either by the Council or by other enterprise. A number of the derelict sites arising as a result of clearance orders in the past, were cleared through a small local demand for stone and old bricks.



Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	15
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	48
2.	Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects reasonably fit for human inhabitation ... ..	15
Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-		
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	nil

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	15
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners ... ..	15
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... ..	nil
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... ..	7

Housing Act 1936. Part IV., Overcrowding:-

(a)	1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	5
	2. Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	5
	3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	36
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	nil
(c)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	2
	Number of cases concerned in such cases ... ..	13
(d)	Cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded, after Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	nil

Van Dwellings:-

The removal of four caravans which migrated into the District during the year was secured as a result of informal action by the Department.

Unless control is maintained with regard to these dwellings, small settlements would become established accompanied no doubt, with the insanitary environment which appears to be inseparable from groups of these dwellings.



## SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

### Milk Supply:-

There were five wholesale purveyors and sixteen retail purveyors of milk registered with the Local Authority at the end of the year. Much attention was devoted by the Department to milk supplies. Dairies and cowsheds were regularly inspected and the Sanitary Inspector regularly carries out sedimentation tests on samples of milk taken from the various purveyors. Also, twelve samples of milk were examined by the County and City Public Health Laboratory by bacteriological methods. Two of these samples being examined for tuberculosis, the remainder for the coli typhoid group and haemolytic streps.

### Meat and Other Foods:-

Slaughtering of animals for food for human consumption was centralised at Hereford towards the end of January, and since then no slaughtering other than emergency slaughter has been carried out in the town.

The Sanitary Inspector endeavours to inspect as much of the meat exposed for sale as is possible, but, the inspection of the whole presents too great a task as the Inspector is very fully occupied at the present time. He has from time to time, undertaken periods of duty as meat inspector, at the Hereford City Abattoir.

A considerable amount of rationed food has been inspected where the food, although fit for human consumption, has presented signs of deterioration, and various recommendations have been made to the Food Executive Officer.

The Inspector regularly attends the Markets etc.

### Food Found to be unfit for Human Consumption.-

- 3 Beast Livers.
- 1 Pair Sheep Lungs.
- 1 Sheep Liver.
- 3 Pounds Rib of Beef.
- 1 Pair Beast Lungs.
- 28 Poultry Livers.
- 2 Rabbits.
- 9 Stones Fish.
- 252 Pounds Beef.
- 60 Tins Fruit.
- 3 Boxes Cucumbers.
- 1 Carcase Poultry.

## SECTION F. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:-

The most prevalent infectious disease were measles (73 cases notified) and whooping cough (15 cases notified). Measles appeared in February and continued to recur until the end of June. the month of greatest prevalence being May when 41 notifications were received. From the end of June the disease disappeared and did not again recur until December when four cases were notified. The disease was chiefly confined to children aged between five and ten years, but five of the patients were over twenty years of age. The disease was mild and there were no deaths. The district was free from whooping cough until the last quarter of the year - all the patients were children and there were no deaths.

The district remained remarkably free from scarlet fever, (four cases), but the normal prevalence of diphtheria was experienced, five cases being treated in hospital and fortunately no deaths occurred. Three cases of cerebro-spinal fever were notified, which is unusual - the district being free from this disease for many years. All cases were severe, showed typical physical signs, and were admitted to the Herefordshire General Hospital for treatment. One patient died shortly after admission to hospital.



# Notifiable Disease during the Year, 1940.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever ...	4	3
Diphtheria ...	6	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-
Pneumonia ...	3	-
Erysipelas ...	4	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	3
Whooping Cough ...	15	-
Measles ...	73	-
Anterio Polio Myelitis	1	1

## Analysis of the Total Notified Cases According to Age.

Disease.	AGE GROUPS.												Totals.
	Un- der 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	4
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	6
Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Measles ...	2	3	5	6	9	41	2	-	2	3	-	-	73
Whooping Cough ...	3	-	1	2	1	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	15
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3
Anterio Polio Myelitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals.	5	3	6	9	10	52	6	1	6	6	3	4	111

## Diphtheria Immunisation:-

During the year five children were given courses of diphtheria prophylactic by the Medical Officer of Health under the scheme of free immunisation adopted by the Council. Two of these children were under school age, the remainder being children attending school. The material used was alum precipitated toxoid. Under this scheme no immunisations were carried out by private practitioners.

## Tuberculosis:-

At the beginning of the year there were 19 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 10 being cases of pulmonary and 9 cases of non-pulmonary disease. During the year 5 cases of pulmonary and 7 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were added to the register and 12 names removed. At the end of the year 9 cases of pulmonary and 10 cases of non-pulmonary disease remained on the register.

## Tuberculosis - New Cases, 1940.

Age Periods.	New Cases.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- ...	-	-	-	-
1- ...	-	-	2	2
5- ...	-	-	-	2
15- ...	1	-	-	-
25- ...	1	1	1	-
35- ...	-	-	-	-
45- ...	1	-	-	-
55- ...	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-
Totals.	3		3	4

# Meteorological Report:-

I am indebted to Mr. F.J. Parsons, Meteorologist -in- charge, The Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, for the following meteorological report for the year 1940:-

## Air Temperature (Degrees F.)

Month.	Mean.	Difference from Normal.	Extremes.	
			Maximum.	Minimum.
January	30.0	-9.4	53	-3
February	37.9	-2.1	59	12
March	44.4	+1.8	59	22
April	48.9	+1.8	73	26
May	54.7	+1.4	70	38
June	61.8	+3.2	84	46
July	59.3	-2.6	77	42
August	60.9	+0.1	78	40
September	55.9	-0.7	82	34
October	49.9	+0.4	62	31
November	45.5	+1.9	58	24
December	40.1	-0.2	55	24
Year	49.1	-0.4	84	-3

(June 9th.)(Jan.21st.)

## Ground Temperature (Degrees F.)

Month.	Means.		Number of Nights with Ground Frost. (30F.or less)	Lowest Temp. on Grass.
	One Foot Depth.	Four Feet Depth.		
January	33.5	40.9	-6	25
February	36.4	39.1	4	11
March	42.2	42.7	11	15
April	48.1	46.2	16	8
May	56.2	52.3	27	2
June	62.6	57.6	38	0
July	62.0	59.2	36	0
August	62.8	60.2	32	0
September	58.0	59.2	29	3
October	50.8	54.8	25	8
November	44.8	49.8	19	9
December	39.3	45.0	19	13
Year	49.7	50.6	-6	94

(Jan.21st.)

## Rainfall (in inches).

Month.	Total Fall. 1940.	Difference from Normal.	Greatest fall in one day.	Number of Rain Days (.005 inch or more).
January	2.80	+0.26	0.86	8
February	2.21	+0.19	0.41	14
March	1.60	-0.77	0.41	13
April	3.91	+1.98	1.79	17
May	2.19	+0.08	0.96	9
June	0.63	-1.29	0.31	7
July	2.87	+0.60	0.80	16
August	0.26	-2.26	0.19	2
September	0.17	-1.41	0.36	6
October	4.21	+1.02	0.89	15
November	6.23	+3.56	1.26	20
December	1.32	-1.41	0.51	12
Year	28.94	+0.55	1.79	139

(April 28th.)



# Bright Sunshine (Hours and 10ths),

Month.	Total 1940.	Difference from Normal.	Best Day's Record.	Sunless Days.
January	87.1	-33.1	7.1	13
February	17.9	-52.0	4.1	15
March	121.6	+ 8.0	11.0	1
April	126.7	-18.1	12.4	1
May	198.8	+11.6	13.9	0
June	280.4	+76.4	15.4	1
July	166.8	-22.5	11.3	1
August	207.1	+26.0	14.0	1
September	183.6	+43.2	11.8	0
October	65.4	-33.3	9.4	2
November	70.5	+ 6.8	7.3	5
December	47.7	- 1.8	6.0	8
Year	1573.6	+77.4	15.4	48

A new record air temperature was established when a shade minimum temperature of minus 3 degrees (3 below zero) occurred on January 21st. Only once previously (in February 1929) has air temperature been below zero, since temperature records began in 1874. January was the coldest since 1881, and June the warmest since 1896. It was also the warmest month of the year, a distinction rarely held by June. May was the most equable on record. The maximum temperature of 82 degrees on September 4th. was the highest for September since 1929.

For the first time since sunshine records began in 1914, 100 hours of sunshine were registered in a calender week (in June). Total hours for January and June have only once been higher, and for September only twice higher. The February total was the smallest on record for any month. From March to October (inclusive) a period of eight months, there were only seven days without sunshine.

August rainfall has only once been lower (in 1936), whilst the combined rainfall of August and September was under one inch - a condition without precedent since rainfall records began in 1818.

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